REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 25 were pending in the application. Applicants cancelled claims 1-4, 6-8 and 25 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants added claims 26-33. Hence, claims 26-33 are pending.

Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. Claims 2-4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Since Applicants cancelled claims 1-4, 6-8 and 25, these rejections are moot.

Applicants respectfully assert that there is support in the Specification for newly added claims 26-33. No new matter has been introduced. In particular, at least page 3, lines 4-7; page 6, lines 5-8; page 10, lines 15-16, 19-21; page 11, lines 4-6, 17-19; and page 13, lines 7-10 of Applicants' Specification provides support for the claim limitations of claim 26. Further, at least page 12, lines 4-8 of Applicants' Specification provides support for the claim limitations of claim 27. Additionally, at least page 12, lines 17-18 of Applicants' Specification provides support for the claim limitation of claim 28. Furthermore, at least page 12, lines 20-23 of Applicants' Specification provides support for the claim limitation of claim 29. Further, at least page 10, lines 24-26 of Applicants' Specification provides support for the claim limitation of claim 30. Furthermore, at least page 10, line 30 – page 11, line 2 of Applicants' Specification provides support for the claim limitation of claim 31. Additionally, at least page 12, lines 24-28 of Applicants' Specification provides support for the claim limitations of claim 32. Furthermore, at least page 13, lines 7-10 of Applicants' Specification provides support for the claim limitation of claim 33.

Applicants respectfully assert that at least the following claim limitations are not taught or suggested by Paxton et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0007292) (hereinafter "Paxton") and Chuang (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,421) either alone or in combination.

Paxton and Chuang, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest "wherein said queue entry request further comprises a position in said queue at which point a patron is to be notified" as recited in claim 26. Chuang instead teaches that

the Electronic Waiting-in-Line Register (EWR) receives the specific ID of the guest's GID Device. Chuang, column 3, lines 29-34. This is not the same as receiving information relating to the position in the queue at which point a patron is to be notified. Further, the Examiner acknowledges that Paxton does not address the situation of receiving a queue request that includes information, such as information related to a position in the queue at which point a patron is to be notified. Office Action (6/24/2008), page 7. Accordingly, Chuang and Paxton, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest the above-recited claim limitation.

Further, Paxton and Chuang, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest "notifying said patron, using said patron-supplied contact information, upon said patron reaching said position in said queue at which said patron is to be notified, of a current position of said patron in said queue and an estimate time at which said patron will be served" as recited in claim 26. While Paxton and Chuang teach notifying the patron (Paxton [0056] and Chuang, column 3, lines 34-35), they do not teach, singly or in combination, notifying the patron <u>upon the patron reaching the position in the queue at which the patron is to be notified</u>. As recited in claim 26, the queue entry request includes a position in the queue at which point a patron is to be notified. Upon the patron reaching this position in the queue, the patron is notified. There is no such language in either Paxton or Chuang. Neither is there any language or passage in the combination of Paxton and Chuang that would suggest such a teaching.

Furthermore, Paxton and Chuang, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest "starting a timer to count a first duration of time after said patron is notified that said patron is ready to be served" as recited in claim 27. There is no language in Paxton and Chuang, taken singly or in combination, that teaches or suggests <u>starting a timer to count a first duration of time</u>. Neither is there any language in Paxton and Chuang, taken singly or in combination, that teaches or suggests starting a timer to count a first duration of time <u>after the patron is notified that the patron is ready to be served</u>.

Additionally, Paxton and Chuang, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest "dequeuing said patron from said queue if said patron responds to said notification that said patron is ready to be served prior to an expiration of said first duration of time" as recited in claim 28. There is no language in Paxton and Chuang, taken singly or in combination, that teaches or suggests <u>dequeuing the patron</u> from the queue if the <u>patron responds to the notification</u> that the patron is ready to be served <u>prior to an expiration of the first duration of time</u>.

Furthermore, Paxton and Chuang, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest "placing said patron at an end of said queue if said patron does not respond to said notification that said patron is ready to be served prior to an expiration of said first duration of time" as recited in claim 29. There is no language in Paxton and Chuang, taken singly or in combination, that teaches or suggests <u>placing the patron at an end of the queue</u> if the patron does not respond to the notification that the patron is ready to be served <u>prior to an expiration of the first duration of time</u>.

Further, Paxton and Chuang, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest "wherein said queue entry request is received via electronic mail" as recited in claim 30. Neither does Paxton and Chuang, taken singly or in combination, teach or suggest "wherein said queue entry request is received via a web page" as recited in claim 31.

In addition, Paxton and Chuang, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest "wherein said estimate time at which said patron will be served is determined based on a rate at which patrons have been served between a current time and a time of a last notification to said patron" as recited in claim 33. There is no language in Paxton and Chuang, taken singly or in combination, that teaches or suggests that the estimate time at which the patron will be served is determined <u>based on a rate at which patrons have been served between a current time and a time of a last notification to the patron</u>.
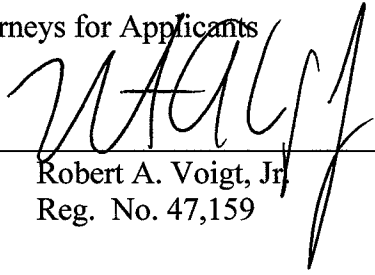
As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicants that claims 26-33 in the Application are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request an allowance of such claims. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call Applicants' attorney at the below listed number if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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